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COUNTRY Poland

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SUBJECT Racibors Metal Products Factory

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. The Raciborska Fabryka Wzrobow Metalowych (Metal Goods Producing Factory) (Rafamef) in Ratiborhammer (kuznia Raciborska) (P 51/Y 06), Ratibor (Raciborz) district (P 51/Y 05) had belonged to the Hegenscheidtwerke.¹ In 1945, the plant was so completely dismantled by the Soviets that only empty sheds remained. In the spring of 1947, reconstruction started and, in the fall of 1948, the factory was almost reconstructed and was operating again.

2. The plant consisted of a pattern making shop, a foundry, a repair shop, a storehouse, a machine and assembling shed, some offices, and a bath room. It was supplied with current by the Meisse power plant and was equipped with a transformer station.

3. The plant produced vertical turning mills with a diameter up to 800 mm; lathes for railroad wheels; grinding machines for axle bearings; vertical turning mills for large engine wheels; and PS-type stamping machines for testing engine springs. All completed machines run at the test stand for three days.

25X1

4. The working staff of the plant amounted to about 1,500 men. It was managed by a Pole as a general manager. Most of the foremen were native Germans living in the surroundings. The guard detail consisted of a chief and ten men.

25X1

7. Comment. The Wilhelm Hegenscheidt KG at 5 Sand Strasse, Ratibor, comprised the Baubeschlag- und Maschinenfabrik (Building Fittings and Machine Producing Factory) in Ratibor; the building fittings producing factory in Tapian; and the Werk Ratiborhammer referred to in this information. The limited partnership company produced bolt making machines, building fittings, axles, bolts, wheel set turning machines, rapid production lathes; journal lathes; burnishing lathes; and foundry products.

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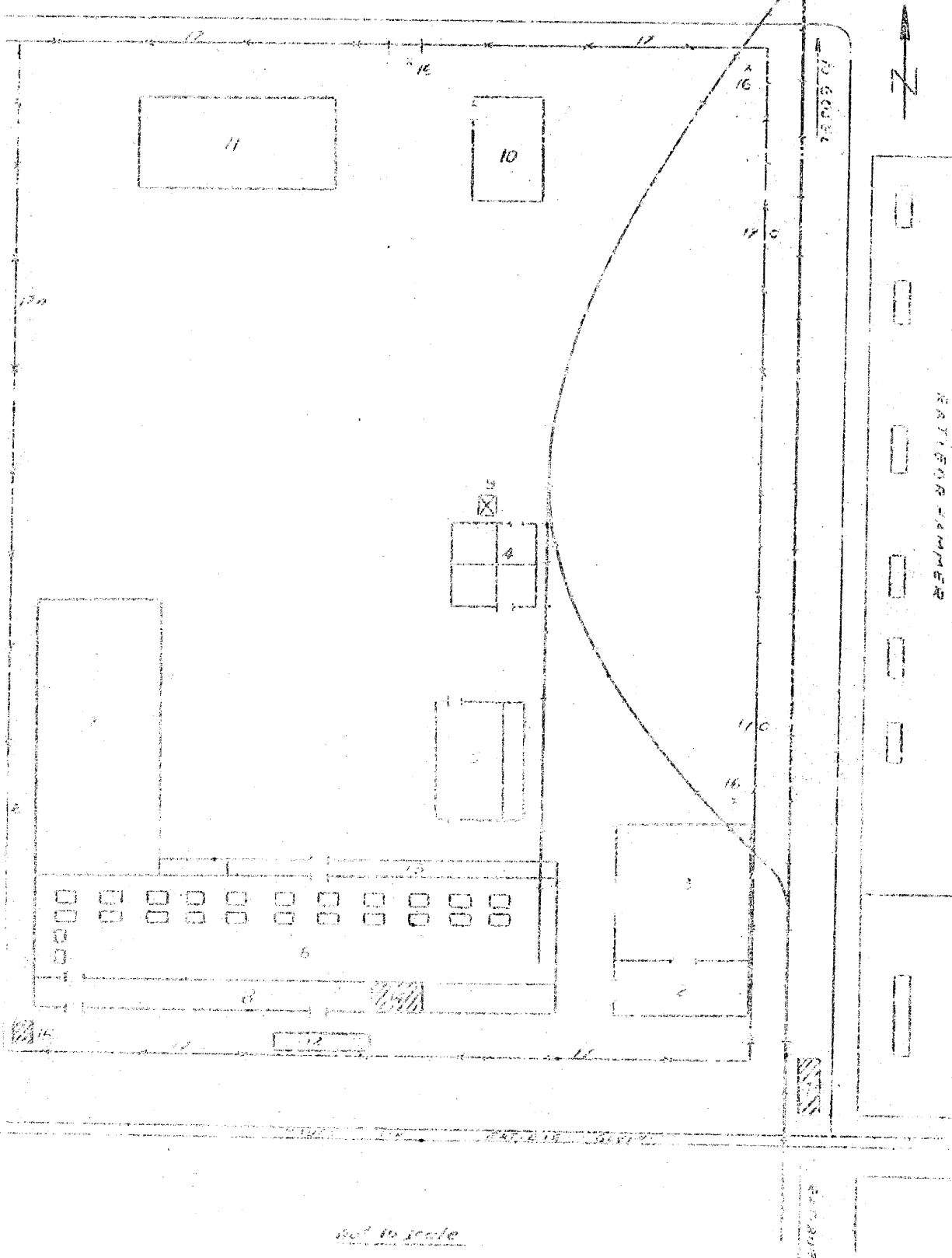
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LEGEND see next page

-2-

25X1A



CONFIDENTIAL

-3-

25X1A

Legend

- 1 Kuznia Ratiborska (Ratiborhammer) railroad station, about 300 meters from the foundry.
- 2 Pattern making shop, about 80x30 meters, with a circular saw, a band saw, a planer and a truing machine. The shop worked in one shift.
- 3 Foundry, 30x40 meters, with two cupola furnaces of unidentified diameter and a sand preparing machine. The shop worked with moulding boxes only; two casting operations were executed per week with one furnace operating each time. The foundry had a working staff of about 80 men.
- 4 Storehouse and repair shop, about 25x20 meters. One half of the building served as storeroom and contained 2 circular saws, 1 mechanical saw, 1 centering machine and a material store, the other half served as repair shop with a forge with compressed air hammers, forge fires and 2 small lathes.
- 5 An office building, 30x20 meters, with the designing and auditing office, the Urząd Bezpieczeństwa (Security Police) (UB) and a small storeroom for ball bearings and instruments.
- 6 A machine and assembling shed, 40x130 meters, which, at its northern side wall, contained two rows of machines including: 1 large marking table, 6x6 meters; 2 large planers of German make; 3 small planers of German make; 2 shaping machines; 3 small horizontal drilling and boring machines of German make; 1 medium Skoda-type horizontal drilling and boring machine; 2 large horizontal drilling and boring machines of American make with an operation length up to 5 meters and a diameter of 500 mm; 3 medium boring and drilling machines of German make; 2 medium drilling and boring machines of American make; 4 automatical turret lathes; 5 large Foremba-type lathes with an operation length of 8 meters; 6 medium lathes of an operation length of 4 to 5 meters; 6 small lathes of an operation length of 250 cm; 1 shaper with a stroke of 60 cm; 2 shapers with a stroke of 40 cm each; 6 small milling machines for making gears and worm wheels; 2 large milling machines for making gears with a diameter up to 800 mm; 3 external grinding machines for grinding supports of up to 800 mm; 2 internal grinding machines of 300x300 mm; 1 small internal grinding machine of 150 mm; 1 threading machine for making threads of up to 2 inches; and 2 traveling cranes. The southern section of the building contained the machine assembling shop with test stands and two traveling cranes.
- 7 Shed, about 70x40 meters, under construction which, when completed, was scheduled to serve as assembling shop while building No 6 was scheduled to be used as machine shed.
- 8 Assembling shed for precision works, about 10x130 meters.
- 9 A crane for handling materials.
- 10 Guard room for the factory militia.
- 11 Management building with office for the works council and personnel office.
- 12 Bath house, a low wooden building with douching rooms.

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- 13 Engineering office and tool making shop, about 8x9 meters. The tool making shop contained 2 small lathes, 2 mechanical saws, 1 special grinding machine for knives and 6 emery wheels.
- 14 Technical control department with measuring instruments.
- 15 Transformer.
- 16 Guardroom, entrance of the plant.
- 17 A wooden fence, 120 cm high, with barbed wire on the top.
- 17a A wooden fence, 120 cm high.
- 17b Wire fence.
- 17c Brickwall, 250 cm high.

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